He rather evasively claims to have been detained "on business" which he will have to conclude before he can see her again. In the meantime he begs her to "keep your spirits love" and remember that "`the course of true love never did yet run smooth'." The letter concludes with a pastiche of similar cliches and sentiments: "your image is engraved on my heart & your name sweet Annie on my arm," "Oh you Daisey," and "you are dearer to me than wealth & I pray that we soon may meet again & never part," etc.

That Palmer expressed himself in cliches, and that he expressed such cliches to many women, does not mean that his emotions had to have been unreal or shallow. Palmer's language acquires a certain pathos given the context: an addressee who almost certainly cared nothing for him and probably barely knew him, and who never received the letter anyway, as it was intercepted and filed away unread till now by anyone save his doctor and his lawyer.

(An Aptitude for Figures)

William Murray Harman's "History"[lxvi] of June 16, 1880 indicates that he was single, a banker by occupation, and 33 years old at the time of admission. This is his first attack, and is characterized by delusions that he is someone else and that "his brother & father are removing his vital organs." While for the last three years he has been an abstainer, he is alleged to have been "intemperate for many years." His father and brother have indicated their willingness to be his bondsmen, and are maintaining him at six dollars per week, the highest rate for "pay patients" at the Toronto Asylum.

The "Certificate of Insanity" signed by Dr. Temple indicates, under "facts indicating insanity" observed by himself, Harman's "excited manner," his "unsound reasoning," his "hideous" manners and "blasphemous" language, and his eating ravenously or not at all. Harman's father is reported, under "facts ... communicated ... by others," to have observed these and other "facts": Harman has thrown things at his nurse, he "swears and curses at him and other members of his Family," he refuses food "for days at a time," and refuses to allow others to wash and dress him.

The second "Certificate," signed by Dr. Spragge, lists many of the same facts, such as Harman's "using foul language," and his not allowing himself to